

REMARKS

On October 4, 2004, the U.S. Patent Office mailed a Notice of Allowability indicating that Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-9, 19, 22 and 23 were allowable. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 19 and 22, and added Claims 24-28. Accordingly, Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-9, 19, 22-28 are now at issue in the present case.

I. Drawings

Applicants are submitting replacement Figs. 1-6 (contained on Replacement Sheets 1-4). No new matter has been added. Figs. 1-6 constitute all of the drawings of the application.

II. Claims

Applicants have amended Claims 1, 5, 19 and 22 to correct obvious grammatical or typographical errors. Applicants have also amended Claims 2 and 7 to clarify such claims and to ensure that no ambiguities exist in such claims. Importantly, none of the amendments were made in response to any cited art.

In addition, Applicants have added dependent Claims 24-28. Such claims depend (either directly or indirectly) from either Claim 5 or Claim 19. Accordingly, a new search is not required.

Applicants submit that the amendments (A) are needed for proper disclosure or protection of the invention, and (B) require no substantial amount of additional work on the part of the U.S. Patent Office, as required by MPEP § 714.16. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the amendments be entered.

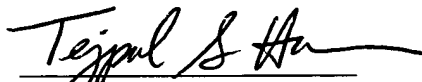
III. Conclusion

Applicants believe that no additional claim fees are due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2198 for any fee deficiencies associated with filing this paper.

Applicants believe that the application appears to be in form for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number regarding any matters relating to the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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